# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:574
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS IN ASSAM
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether there is scarcity of fertilizers for small tea growers in Assam;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to mitigate this problem;

(c) whether the small tea growers have to buy fertilizers at higher price despite the Government`s claim that fertilizers are supplied at subsidised rate;

(d) if so,the details and reasons therefor;and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of subsidised fertilizers to small tea growers?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF ST ATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAiRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): The demand of tea` growers in Assam is included in the overall requirement of Assam State and so are the supplies.

Urea is the only fertilizer under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level and the State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State.

However,the Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of fertilizers up to district level. Availability of 95,490 MT of Urea during Kharif 2008 has been adequate enough to sustain its sales of about 90,320 MT.

All other fertilizer(Phosphatic and Potassic) viz., DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992.The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. State Government was requested from time and again to nominate States` Institutional agency /Marketing Federation to place orders for purchase/procurement of decontrolled fertilizers like DAP alongwith the payment for use by the farmers in the state at the time of need. The State Government of Assam has not been able to nominate States`Institutional Agency for procurement and distribution of the decontrolled fertilizers till date.

As far as small tea growers are concerned,they have to buy the fertilizers at the prevailing market price and no subsidy is provided by the Tea Board.